

funds provided by the State Association for the Blind and the Commission for the Blind. The State Library became responsible for the program on 1 September 1958, with an initial state appropriation permitting it to assume complete responsibility on 1 July 1959. Two years later the library was authorized to enter into contracts with other states to provide library service to the blind, with the proviso that adequate compensation be paid for the service; and a contract was signed with the state of South Carolina for this purpose. The arrangement with South Carolina continued until 30 June 1973, when the contract was terminated because of the lack of space to house the materials and equipment for services to the blind and physically handicapped—although braille materials continued to be furnished. State appropriations for the service have been supplemented by grants from Library Services and Construction Act funds.²²

The State Library Processing Center had its beginnings when representatives of forty public libraries met with the staff of the State Library on 14 April 1959 to consider the problems relating to the proposed centralized cataloging and processing operation. The representatives agreed that such a facility was feasible and that it should be operated as a part of the State Library. The center was initially funded from Library Services Act funds, and the first books were cataloged and distributed on 27 May 1960. In the beginning, thirty-four public libraries representing forty-four counties participated. In the first eighteen months of operations 62,921 volumes were processed at a cost of 87 cents per volume and 13,094 titles were cataloged.²³

In 1964 the State Library reported that the Processing Center had become self-supporting because of the 75 cents per processed book that it charged for its services. Although this report was technically correct, the receipts of the center came from LSCA grants made to participating libraries for that purpose. The work of the center continued to grow, and in 1974 the chairperson of the Processing Center Advisory Committee found that the center had processed more books in the first five months of fiscal year 1974-1975 than it had during the entire preceding fiscal year. The center had contracts with sixty-five public libraries and ten institutional libraries, and the advisory committee was concerned about whether it could cope with its commitments with a small